

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 167208

62

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 /125 R

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8-22-73 X22342

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

ARA-LA/CEN:DLAZAR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CU, VE, H

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE TO RELAX SANCTIONS AGAINST
CUBA

1. HONDURAN FOMIN BATRES PAID COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN THIS AFTERNOON AT LATTER'S
REQUEST. AFTER SHORT DISCUSSION OF MEETINGS WITH THE
COMMITTEE OF SEVEN, DURING WHICH BATRES EXPRESSED
OPTIMISM THAT A SOLUTION TO THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR DISPUTE
MAY BE POSSIBLE, WE RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE VENEZUELAN
INITIATIVE ON CUBA. BATRES CONFIRMED THAT HE MET WITH
AMBASSADOR ONE DAY PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN US AND ASKED FOR AN
AIDE MEMOIRE ON THE SUBJECT OF US POSITION ON VENEZUELAN
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PAGE 02 STATE 167208

INITIATIVE. BATRES SAID THAT HONDURAS POSITION WOULD BE

ENTIRELY BASED ON THE LEGAL ASPECTS. HONDURAS STRONGLY OF THE OPINION THAT CORRECT LEGAL PROCEDURES MUST BE EMPLOYED, THAT RIO TREATY MUST CONTINUE TO HAVE EQUAL VALIDITY FOR ALL; HE STATED THAT HONDURAS WOULD NOT SUPPORT AN ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT RIO TREATY OR OTHER JURIDICIAL ASPECTS APPLICABLE TO THIS SITUATION. WE OUTLINED AGAIN US POSITION AND POINTED OUT THAT OUR POSITION IS BASED ON LEGAL INADEQUACY OF VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE ALTHOUGH WE ALSO DISAGREED WITH VENEZUELA'S BELIEF THAT CUBA NO LONGER CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO THE REST OF THE HEMISPHERE. BATRES REPLIED THAT IF VENEZUELAN POSITION WAS UNSOUND JURIDICALLY THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AS HONDURAS WILL ALSO VOTE ON THAT BASIS.

2. TEGUCIGALPA 3151 ARRIVED IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEPARTURE OF FOMIN AND WE WERE NOT ABLE TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF SUGAR PURCHASES. WE PLAN TO CALL AMBASSADOR GALVEZ AUGUST 23 IN ORDER TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF THE SUGAR SALE.

3. REQUEST THAT THE AIDE MEMOIRE BEING PREPARED BY THE EMBASSY FOR FOMIN BATRES STRESS VERY STRONGLY THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF OUR ARGUMENT AS IT APPEARS THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT MOST APPEALING TO HONDURAS. WE ASSUME POST HAS SUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE IN BACKGROUND CABLES ALREADY SENT BUT DEPARTMENT WILLING TO SEND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR OTHER HELP NEEDED ASAP. ROGERS

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